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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Applicants : Constantine J. Tsikos et al.
Serial No. : 10/066,545
Filing Date : February 1, 2002
Title of Invention : PLANAR LASER ILLUMINATION AND IMAGING (PLIIM)
SYSTEM EMPLOYING A LINEAR IMAGE DETECTION
ARRAY
Examiner : Thien Le
Group Art Unit : 2876
Attorney Docket No. : 108-087USANG0

Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT UNDER RULE 312(a)

SIR:

Prior to payment of Issue Fee in the present Application, please amend the same as follows:

AMENDMENT OF THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the Specification as follows:

On Page 4, please amend the third paragraph as follows:

Another object of the present invention is to provide such an improved method of and system for illuminating the surfaces of [object] objects to be imaged, using an array of planar laser illumination arrays which employ VLDs that are smaller, and cheaper, run cooler, draw less power, have longer lifetimes, and require simpler optics (because their frequency bandwidths are very small compared to the entire spectrum of visible light).

and amend the seventh paragraph as follows:

Another object of the present invention is to provide a planar laser illumination and imaging (PLIIM) system, wherein a fixed focal length imaging subsystem is employed, and the laser beam focusing technique of the present invention helps compensate for decreases in the